(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a Press report appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 19th July, 1995, captioned "MP Plans stir to back hawkers".

(b) if so, whether Government/NDMC are taking steps to solve the problem facing the authorised hawkers; and

(c) what steps, if any, Government propose to take in the matter with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Thareja Judicial Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to verify the claims of hawkers/squatters in the NDMC area had said that hawkers/squatters whose claims had been accepted by it, be allowed to continue the same trade till such time as they are allotted stalls/shops/teh-bazari. The continuance of such hawkers/squatters as indulging in the trade of eatables at the discretion of the Health Department of the NDMC. The Committee had not accepted the request of traders of eatables for change of trade. NDMC have taken up the matter with the Thareja Committee conveying that change of trade in the case of traders of cooked food be permitted. Accepting to consider this request, the committee has intimated that the directions in the matter will be incorporated in the report to be submitted by the Committee to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Security to Inmates at Women's Hostel

1573. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India, New Delhi of June 20, 1995 under the caption, "No security for inmates at women's hostels;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regards;

(c) what is the number and details of women hostels in Delhi particularly of working women's hostels and the number of inmates living in these hostels;

(d) what are the details of incidents of harassment and violence meted out to the inmates due to lack of proper security arrangements in respect of each hostel during each of the last three years and so, far in 1995; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take for the security of inmates of women hostels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A total of 42 women hostels with 6703 inmates are located in Delhi. Of these, there are 22 working women's hostels with 3781 inmates, 19 girl students' hostels with 2862 inmates and one hostel for handicapped women with 60 inmates.

Two cases of burglary (both in All India Women's Conference hostal at Bhagwan Das Road). one case of molestation (in YWA Hostel, Saket) and two cases of eve-teasing (One in respect of All India Women's Conference hostel at Bhagwan Das Road and the other in respect of Post Graduate women's Hostel, Maulana Azad Medical College) were reported during the year 1994.

No incident of harassment and violence was reported in any of the women's hostels during the years 1992, 1993 and 1995.

(e) Most of the hostels have their own arrangements for Security. However, the Delhi Police is maintaining close liaison with the administrative authorities of these hostels. The Delhi Police has intensified Patrolling around the women' hostels in Delhi. Legal action is initiated as and when any case of theft, harassment and violence is reported either by the inmates or the authorities of these hostels.

Upgradation of Post Offices

1574. SHRIMATI BASANTI SHARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey of existing Extra Departmental Post Offices has been undertaken in order to indentify the post offices which need upgradation;